

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

Claims 1-10 (Abandoned)

11. (Previously Presented) An endodontic device for detecting moisture within a root canal, comprising:

an endodontic cone formed of a water absorptive material;
a pH changing material applied to the water absorptive material; and
a pH sensitive color changing indicator applied to the water absorptive material;
wherein the endodontic device changes color when moistened with water,
wherein the pH changing material enhances a change in color of the endodontic device when the endodontic cone is moistened with water compared to a change in color of an endodontic device without the pH changing material.

12. (Original) An endodontic device as recited in claim 11, wherein the pH changing material comprises an alkali metal oxide, alkali metal hydroxide, alkali metal carbonate, alkaline earth metal oxide, or alkaline earth metal hydroxide.

13. (Original) An endodontic device as recited in claim 12, wherein the pH changing material comprises at least one of CaO, KOH, and K₂CO₃.

14. (Original) An endodontic device as recited in claim 12, wherein the pH sensitive color changing indicator comprises phenolphthalein.

15. (Original) An endodontic device as recited in claim 11, wherein the pH changing material comprises citric acid.

Claims 16-24. (Cancelled)

25. (Original) A method of manufacturing an endodontic device for detecting moisture within a root canal, comprising the steps of:

providing an endodontic cone comprising a water absorptive material;

applying a pH changing solution that includes a pH changing material to the endodontic cone;

drying the endodontic cone so as to be substantially free of moisture;

applying an anhydrous pH sensitive indicator solution that includes a pH sensitive color changing indicator and an anhydrous volatile solvent to the endodontic cone;

drying the endodontic cone so as to be substantially dry.

26. (Original) A method of manufacturing a device as recited in claim 25, wherein the endodontic cone is dried using an oven.

27. (Original) A method of manufacturing a device as recited in claim 25, wherein the pH changing material is present in the pH changing solution in an amount between about 0.01% and about 0.5% by weight.

28. (Original) A method of manufacturing a device as recited in claim 25, wherein the pH sensitive color changing indicator is present in the anhydrous pH sensitive indicator solution in an amount between about 0.01% and about 0.5%.

29. (Original) A method of manufacturing a device as recited in claim 25, wherein the anhydrous volatile solvent comprises one of isopropanol and ethanol.

30. (Cancelled)

31. (Cancelled)

32. (Original) A method of using a device for detecting moisture within a root canal, comprising the steps of:
 - inserting an endodontic device as recited in claim 11 within a root canal of a patient's tooth;
 - removing the device and observing whether the chemical indicator has changed color, indicating the presence of moisture within the root canal.
33. (Cancelled)